

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE of a CRAFT floor

### Homeowner Responsibility ~ Please Read Carefully

Every CRAFT floor is a premium quality, prefinished wood product that is built to exhibit superior stability and longevity - but it is not indestructible. Wood is a natural and organic material and can undergo irreparable damage if not treated properly and given periodic care and maintenance.

Once a CRAFT floor has been installed and started to be lived on by its new occupants, there are three very important considerations that must be observed: proper **cleaning, protection and humidity control**. Please carefully read and follow the guidelines below for proper care and maintenance, and to get the most enjoyment out of a CRAFT floor.

### 1 Cleaning a CRAFT floor

- It is extremely important to keep any wood floor clean and dry at all times.
- Since water is incompatible with any real wood floor, it is important to clean up any spills immediately! Wipe up with a soft dry cloth or very carefully remove with a wet/dry vacuum. Make sure to dry thoroughly without blasting heat directly on the surface.
- A CRAFT floor should be cleaned often, as part of the regular cleaning schedule. It is recommended to clean kitchen areas twice as often as other areas.
- If cleaning is done with a vacuum, use only a soft brush attachment. Use the vacuum to capture dirt and sand, and to clean out grooves and distressing marks. Be mindful to use a plastic attachment when vacuuming in corners and hard to reach areas, and to avoid scratches from any hard metal ends. **DO NOT** use a vacuum with a beater bar attachment as this can damage a CRAFT floor.
- If cleaning is done with a broom, sweep wood floors often with a soft, fine bristle broom, removing grit before it can scratch or mar the floor.
- For more thorough cleaning, use an all-purpose floor cleaning kit such as Bona Hardwood Floor Cleaner with Bona Hardwood Floor Mop, or equivalent that is NWFA approved. Clean as needed. **NEVER** use wax, oil-based detergent or any general-purpose household cleaner.
- DO NOT Wet Mop floors, or use Steam Cleaners on wood floors.** Water from wet mops or steam cleaners can seep down into the grooves and spaces between individual planks and can cause irreparable damage.
- Place entry mats outside exterior doors and absorbent floor mats inside at all entrance ways. This will keep dirt and moisture from being tracked inside and onto the floor. Shake out, wash and vacuum these mats regularly.
- Areas in front of sinks should have absorbent mats to catch any spills. If these mats become wet, shake out and hang up until completely dry before placing back on floor.

### 2 Protecting a CRAFT floor

- It is suggested that, wherever possible, shoes should be removed when entering a space with a CRAFT floor in order to minimize tracking in dirt on soles. This will also make for a more sanitary space overall. It is recommended to avoid wearing high heels, cleats, cowboy boots or work boots on any wood floor, as the concentrated heel pressure can leave indentations in the floor's surface.
- It is recommended to keep pet nails trimmed and to minimize active playing on wood floors in order to prevent scratching and dulling of the wood's finish.
- Felt pads or soft furniture protectors should be placed under all furniture. For office chairs, narrow gliders and hard casters can easily damage hardwood floors. It is recommended to switch to wide casters with soft, hardwood-friendly materials if possible.



Refer to NWFA's comprehensive information on wood floor cleaning, care and maintenance ([craftfloor.com/nwfa-care.pdf](http://craftfloor.com/nwfa-care.pdf)).

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE of a CRAFT floor ...continued

### ② Protecting a CRAFT floor ...continued

- When moving furniture, appliances or any heavy object across a hardwood floor, it is always recommended to pick up and move, rather than slide across the surface. Large appliances must always be moved only when there is sufficient protection covering the flooring – such as plywood – to protect the finish from scratching and wood from getting grooved or dented.
- It is recommended to elevate potted plants from the surface of the floor in order to avoid contact with moisture which can seep from ceramic pots and leave permanent marks, even on prefinished wood floors.
- Area rugs go very well with wood floors but must be regularly and thoroughly cleaned, both the top surface and underneath. Natural fabric rugs are considered to be the best. DO NOT use any rubber or plastic backed mats since moisture is easily trapped underneath, possibly resulting in irreparable damage to the woods surface. In sun-lit areas that receive constant exposure to bright sunlight, it is recommended to rotate area rugs occasionally in order to balance out any discoloration or fading caused by constant UV exposure.

### ③ Proper Humidity Control for a CRAFT floor

Wood flooring, even well engineered wood flooring, is prone to expansion and contraction when exposed to significant changes in ambient humidity. **In order to minimize the chance of any shrinkage or expansion of a CRAFT floor, it is highly recommended to use a suitable humidifier in arid climates, especially during the dry, winter months, and a suitable dehumidifier during the steamy summer months in extremely hot and humid climates.**

- In order to guarantee the continual stability of a CRAFT floor, it is necessary to maintain the recommended levels of temperature and humidity at all times, especially when the space in which a CRAFT floor is installed is not occupied for long periods of time.
- It is recommended to keep the spaces in which a CRAFT floor is installed at a constant temperature of 15–26° C (60–80°F).
- It is extremely important to keep the spaces in which a CRAFT floor is installed at a relative humidity within the range of 30–50%. Extended periods of relative humidity outside these ranges could result in irreparable damage to a CRAFT floor.
- It is highly recommended to purchase a good quality humidistat to monitor the relative humidity within any space that a CRAFT floor is installed, and if necessary, to purchase a humidifier or dehumidifier to help maintain the proper humidity levels throughout the changing of the seasons.
- It is important to be aware that, due to the fact that wood is a natural product that readily reacts to changes in relative humidity, it is expected that a small amount of gapping may occur as the environment in which a CRAFT floor is installed cycles through the seasons.